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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. |
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09/387,569

09/01/99

POLITIS

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WM01/0705

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EXAMINER

GOOD JOHNSON, M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2672

DATE MAILED:

07/05/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/387,569

Applicant(s)

POLITIS, GEORGE

Examiner

Motilewa A. Good-Johnson

Art Unit

2672

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 September 1999.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-72 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-72 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☒ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the following communications: application, filed on 09/01/1999.
2. Claims 1-72 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 14, 25, 38, 49 and 62 are independent claims. No claims have yet been amended.
3. The present title of the invention is "Region Based Image Compositing" (as originally filed by applicant).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

5. Claims 1-72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chauvin et al., U.S. Patent Number 6,008,820, "Processor for Controlling the Display of Rendered Image Layers and Method for Controlling Same", class 345/502, 12/28/1999, filed on 06/27/1996.

As per independent claim 1, "a method of creating an image . . . comprising the steps of: dividing a space in which said outlines are defined into a plurality region . . .

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formed by segment of a virtual grid encompassing said space; Chauvin discloses in figure 15C, element 558, manipulating said regions to determine a plurality of further regions . . . region has a corresponding compositing expression; Chauvin discloses in figure 15C, elements 564 and 566, gsprites, classifying said further regions according to at least one attribute of said graphical objects within said further regions; Chauvin discloses in figure 15C, elements 560 and 562, objects, modifying each said corresponding compositing expression according to a classification of said further region . . . ; Chauvin discloses in figure 7, element 310, and compositing said image . . . Chauvin discloses in figure 7, element 312.

With respect to dependent claim 2, “. . . said attribute is selected from the group consisting of colour, opacity and object outline.” Chauvin discloses in col. 2, lines 7-13 and in col. 8, lines 23-27.

With respect to dependent claim 3, “manipulating said regions comprises applying set operations to said regions.” Chauvin discloses in col. 5, lines 13-30.

With respect to dependent claim 4, “. . . set operations include difference and/or intersection operations.” Chauvin discloses in col. 5, lines 21-27.

With respect to dependent claim 5, “. . . grid is regularly spaced and preferably orthogonally based.” Chauvin discloses in figure 15C, element 558.

With respect to dependent claim 6, “. . . grid is irregularly shaped.” Chauvin discloses in col. 3, line 23.

With respect to dependent claim 7, “. . . compositing expression is a hierarchically structure representation of the image.” Chauvin discloses in figure 19B.

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With respect to dependent claim 8, "image is at least in part a pixel -based image." Chauvin discloses in figure 6, element 298.

With respect to dependent claim 9, ". . . a flag is stored to indicate whether data of an object is opaque or ordinary." Chauvin discloses in col. 30, lines 33-34.

With respect to dependent claim 10, ". . . compositing expression is optimized based on a value of said flag for contributing objects." Chauvin discloses in col. 13, lines 27-34.

With respect to dependent claim 11, ". . . wholly opaque object in said region acts to eliminate one or more objects within said region from said compositing expressions." Chauvin discloses in col. 14, lines 18-37.

With respect to dependent claim 12, ". . . wholly transparent object in said region eliminates at least itself . . ." Chauvin discloses in col. 36, lines 59-62.

With respect to dependent claim 13, ". . . modifying comprises modifying a manner in which said compositing expression is evaluated with modifying said hierarchically structured representation." Chauvin discloses in col. 37, lines 65-67 and in col. 38, lines 1-2.

As per independent claims 14, 25, 38, 49 and 62, they are rejected based upon similar rational as above independent claim 1.

With respect to dependent claims 15-24, 39-48 and 63-72, they are rejected based upon similar rational as above dependent claims 2 and 5-13 respectively.

With respect to dependent claims 26-37, 50-61, they are rejected based upon similar rational as above dependent claims 2-13 respectively.

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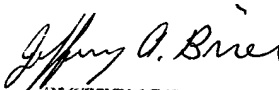
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Motilewa A. Good-Johnson whose telephone number is (703) 305-3939. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30 AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mike Razavi can be reached on (703) 305-4713. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-6606 for regular communications and (703) 308-6606 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Motilewa A. Good-Johnson
Examiner
Art Unit 2672

mgj
June 27, 2001


JEFFERY BRIER
PRIMARY EXAMINER